

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN:AP

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

S-S:MR SE0ASTIAN

EA:MR. GLEYSTEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 030229

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SHEN; MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB

1. IN FEBRUARY 9 CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, ROC
AMBASSADOR SHEN, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, COMPLAINED WITH
OBVIOUS FEELING ABOUT RECENT USG STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS
ON THE CHINA ISSUE, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S DEFINITION
OF NORMALIZATION AS ULITIMATELY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. FOLLOWING MENTION OF
THE SECRETARY'S JANUARY 31 STATEMENT THAT NORMALIZATION
WAS UNDER INTENSIVE REVIEW, SHEN SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED
THAT THE ROC BE CONSULTED, NOT JUST INFORMED, ON ANY
MATTERS AFFECTING ITS EXISTING RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE
WARNED THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRC ON NORMALIZATION
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WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ROC AND ON THE
PEACE OF THE PACIFIC REGION. WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION
FOR THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE TO THE
US OF THE SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN, HE NOTED
ROC DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE BY
THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO EXISTING US-ROC DIPLOMATIC AND
SECURITY TIES. HE ASKED THAT AT AN EARLY TIME THE NEW

ADMINISTRATION REAFFIRM ITS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN THESE TIES, AS DID PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY.

2. HABIB REPLIED THAT THE BASIC THRUST OF STATEMENTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON CHINA WAS REAFFIRMATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN THIS. THE US WOULD, OF COURSE, ENGAGE IN APPROPRIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ROC ON MATTERS AFFECTING ITS IMPORTANT INTERESTS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DEAL WITH THE ROC REQUEST IN OFF-AND FASHION. THESE WERE SPECIFIC AND IMPORTANT MATTERS AND THEY DESERVED CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY. HABIB PROMISED A REPLY PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FEBRUARY 14 FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. SHEN THEN SPOKE OF HOW ROC HOPES FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN SHAKEN BY THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS. THE ROC WAS PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTED IN SEEING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN DISGRACED AND DEAD HEADS OF STATE, BEING TREATED AS A BINDING AGREEMENT MORE SOLEMN THAN THE US-ROC TREATIES OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION AND MUTUAL DEFENSE. HE COMPLAINED STRONGLY OF THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST OF TWO WEEKS AGO FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, NOTING THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN AMBASSADOR DEPENDS ON ACCESS TO THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT AND THAT RECIPROCITY WAS ALSO INVOLVED. HE THEREUPON ASKED FOR A RUNDOWN OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH HUANG CHEN.

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4. FOLLOWING MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S BUSY SCHEDULE IN THE EARLY WEEKS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, HABIB STATED THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH HUANG CHEN. THERE WAS ALSO THE ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO REVEAL THE CONTENTS OF A MEETING OF THIS NATURE. SHEN ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR UNGER WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TRANSITION. HABIB SAID THERE WERE NO PLANS IN THIS RESPECT. SHEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON MESSRS HOLBROOKE AND LAKE AT AN EARLY TIME. HABIB PROMISED TO PASS ON THESE REQUESTS. UPON DEPARTURE, SHEN LEFT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE CONVEYING THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF HIS PRESENTATION WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE IN PROCESS PREPARING OUR RESPONSE TO SHEN. WOULD APPRECIATE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE ANY THOUGHTS EMBASSY TAIPEI MAY HAVE IN HANDLING HIS APPROACH.

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